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## **Taxable Retail Sales Decline 11.2 Percent during Calendar Year 2009**

**OLYMPIA** – April 29, 2010 – Overall taxable retail sales declined 11.2 percent to \$100.5 billion during 2009, the Washington State Department of Revenue reported today.

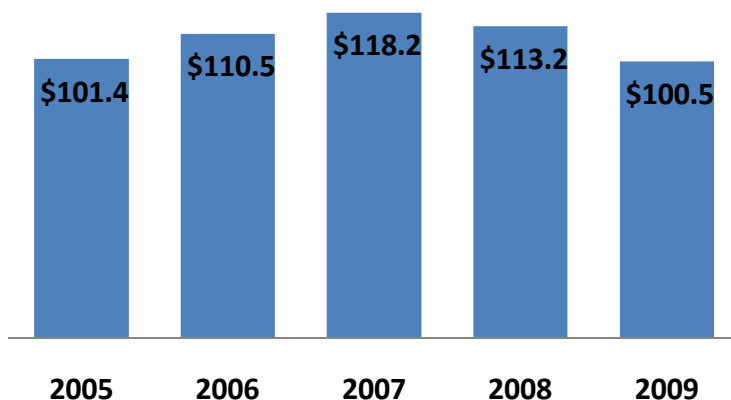
The retail trade component of all taxable retail sales dropped 7.2 percent to \$44.9 billion.

Retail trade is a subset of all taxable retail sales that includes retailers but excludes other industries such as services and construction. A sharp decline in construction activity – down 24.1 percent to \$17.8 billion – weighed down overall taxable retail sales.

Most industry sectors were down over 2008. New and used auto sales dropped 12.8 percent, furniture and home furnishings declined 15.8 percent, and building materials was down 13.3 percent.

Apparel and accessories dropped 8.3 percent; books, periodicals and music stores fell 5.2 percent; and accommodations and food services dipped 2.7 percent. Among the few gainers were E-commerce and mail order up 9.1 percent; and other food and beverage stores with an 8.2 percent gain.

**Taxable Retail Sales**  
Billions of Dollars



**Results for the most populous counties:**

	<b>Taxable retail sales</b>	<b>% change</b>	<b>Retail trade</b>	<b>% change</b>
King	\$39.1 billion	-13.3%	\$15.5 billion	-9.2%
Pierce	\$10.4 billion	-10.9%	\$5.1 billion	-7.4%
Snohomish	\$9.6 billion	- 10.8%	\$4.9 billion	-7.8%
Spokane	\$6.8 billion	-7.2%	\$3.4 billion	-6.1%
Clark	\$3.9 billion	-14.4%	\$1.8 billion	-6.8%

**Results for cities with the most sales:**

	<b>Taxable retail sales</b>	<b>% change</b>	<b>Retail trade</b>	<b>% change</b>
Seattle	\$15.1 billion	-11.7%	\$4.8 billion	-8.2%
Bellevue	\$4.9 billion	- 13.8%	\$2.2 billion	-8.1%
Tacoma	\$3.8 billion	- 11.3%	\$1.8 billion	-8.9%
Spokane	\$3.7 billion	-5.2%	\$1.8 billion	-4.1%
Vancouver	\$2.3 billion	-14.2%	\$1.0 billion	-7.6%

Taxable retail sales and retail trade by county and city, and a breakdown of sales statewide by industry are available at

<http://dor.wa.gov/Content/AboutUs/newsroom/html/trs-2009.aspx>.

The Department's *Quarterly Business Review*, which includes breakdowns of sales by industry for counties and selected cities, is available at

<http://www.dor.wa.gov/Content/AboutUs/StatisticsAndReports/2009/qbrcal09/Default.aspx>.

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